



▲ Mohanad Shareef Hammadi, 23, top, and Waad Ramadan Alwan, 30, bottom, are Iraqis who had been living as refugees in Bowling Green. The men tried unsuccessfully to send sniper rifles, Stinger missiles and money to al-Qaida operatives in Iraq. Both men also admitted to deploying improvised explosives against American soldiers while still living in Iraq. U.S. Marshals did not charge Alwan and Hammadi with planning attacks within American borders.

That awareness has become even more of a reality after two Iraqi refugees living in Bowling Green, Ky. were indicted on federal terrorism charges.

"I think it definitely has changed our mindset," Brewer said. "We still have calls for service every day, we still have traditional enforcement tactics, but I hope that most troopers and officers across the commonwealth know that those are cast in the shadow of the possibility of some connection to terrorism right here in our state. I think the two arrests made here in Bowling Green — which we were involved in — that is great evidence of that. They are not just in major cities like New York. There are cells and there is activity probably in every state in the union."

Ward agreed.

"In light of the two idiots they caught in Bowling Green, what scares me is that historically, if you look at the fanatical Muslims ... once Russia pulled out of Afghanistan, is when the Muslims started attacking Russia and their satellite countries," he said. "They have done the same thing for 40 years to Israel. Every time Israel stopped combat operations, the terrorists came in. I think more importantly, we need to prepare for tomorrow, more so than we have done in the past."

"Our world has certainly shrunk with the most recent arrest in Bowling Green of

two terrorists," Skeens said. "We know it can and will occur in any community. So, we have to be very diligent in preparation, protect our infrastructure, focus on crime prevention and follow up and investigate any leads or any information on suspicious persons we may become aware of."

All four law enforcement leaders said they felt the level of preparedness within their agencies has improved since Sept. 11, 2001. But, the law enforcement community cannot rest on its laurels.

"Not to diminish the importance of illicit drugs, but I think homeland security is today what drugs were 25 years ago," Brewer said. "I don't mean that it is en vogue, I mean it is really coming to the forefront in the importance and the dangers that it holds to our citizenry. Not only in the commonwealth, but also across the United States. I think we're really still in the infancy of it. I think we will see broader programs. I think we will see homeland security satellite offices in each state, and see them fine tuned and more and more dependent — as they should be — on intelligence. Even as monetary resources diminish, I don't think that is going to diminish the importance of training and intel work. I think it's going to be around for awhile." ■

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## Training Information

### NIMS Resources Center

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/>

### Emergency Management Institute

<http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>

### Center for Domestic Preparedness

<http://cdp.dhs.gov/>

### Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, training calendar

<http://www.kyem.ky.gov/training/>

### Kentucky Office of Homeland Security, first responder training program

<http://homelandsecurity.ky.gov/firstresponse/training/default.htm> ■